GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:959
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003
IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL REFORMS
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of Standing Committee of Union Ministers/Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Exports was held recently to sort out the hurdle being faced in implementing agricultural reforms; and

(b)if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a & b): While concluding the deliberations at the conference of Chief Ministers held on 21.05.2001, the Prime Minister announced the constitution of a Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agricultural Exports to consider following issues:

(i) Enhancing the efficiency of procurement and reducing the cost of distribution under PDS through decentralized system of procurement of Foodgrains with active involvement of States.

(ii) Implementation of food for work programme, and Grain Bank Scheme.

(iii) Strategy for diversification in agriculture.

(iv) Risk Management in agriculture through an effective crop insurance scheme.

(v) Review of the list of essential commodities and control orders to ensure free movement of agricultural products.

(vi) WTO Agreement on agriculture − Promotion of Exports of agricultural products.
The Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management on Agriculture Exports has held four meetings i.e. 1st meeting on 6.7.2001, the 2nd meeting on 5.9.2001, the 3rd meeting on 31.10.2001 and the 4th meeting on 23.3.02 respectively and has considered the above issues. Based on the recommendation of the Committee the following action has been taken:
1)Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana has been launched since September 1, 2001.
2)Eleven items in full and one in half have been deleted from the list of essential commodities under Essential Commodities Act.
3)Various control orders have been removed to facilitate free movement of agriculture commodities.
4) Grain Bank Scheme has been expanded.
5) Controls on exports of almost all agricultural commodities excepting some commodities have been removed.
6) Agri-export zones are being established to boost exports of agricultural commodities
7) The matter of amendment of Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation & Controls) Act has been taken up with the States to facilitate development of marketing infrastructure.